



ACQUISITION AND
TECHNOLOGY

(L/MDM)

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON DC 20301-3000

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MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(INSTALLATIONS, LOGISTICS, AND ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND ACQUISITION)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(ACQUISITION)
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES

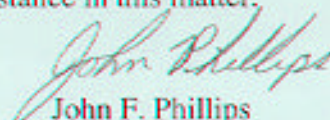
SUBJECT: Enhancing Use of the Government-Wide Purchase Card

I request that the Military Departments and Defense Agencies remove non-essential technical screening requirements and reduce the categories of items which require such screening controls for International Merchant Purchase Authorization Card (IMPAC) purchases up to \$2500.

Increased DoD use of IMPAC offers opportunities for substantial reductions in administrative costs and response times. The requirement for technical screening--recording demand at the base/retail level, checking the Federal Catalog System for central management information, and other related tasks--is one barrier to increased use of IMPAC. Cardholders remain responsible for performing essential screening requirements. For example, the statutory requirements to use products from National Industries for the Blind (NIB), National Industries for the Severely Handicapped (NISH), and Federal Prison Industries (FPI) still apply.

In addition, cardholders must comply with restrictions on purchases of items that are dangerous, have special security characteristics, or are critical to the safe operation of a weapon system. Items associated with safety of flight, configuration controls or technical orders should not be purchased through IMPAC except in emergencies. Cardholders must ensure that demand is recorded for weapon system-related items to support readiness and surge requirements.

Cardholders should be made aware of the price and delivery advantages frequently available through established sources such as DLA and GSA. DLA has adopted new business practices which offer online ordering, prime vendor, quick response, and corporate contracts with low prices and fast delivery. The GSA Advantage online ordering system, which accepts IMPAC, offers many common-use items and identifies and assists in ordering NIB, NISH, and FPI products. My office will work with the DoD Inspector General quantitative analysts to evaluate the effect of this action. Please provide me copies of your implementing documents by September 30, 1996. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.


John F. Phillips

Deputy Under Secretary
of Defense (Logistics)



CC: Assistant DoDIG (AUD)